

Please amend claims 59, 69, 74, and 77 as follows:

C1 1 ~~59~~. (Amended) A method for providing operational protocols to medical diagnostic systems, the method comprising the steps of:

storing a protocol on a machine readable medium, the protocol including at least one operating parameter for a medical diagnostic system;

displaying user viewable indicia descriptive of the protocol at a medical diagnostic location, wherein the user viewable indicia include an exemplary image obtainable via the protocol;

performing a protocol exchange transaction including selecting the protocol via a user interface and loading the protocol at the medical diagnostic location from the machine readable medium via a network connection to the medical diagnostic location; and

storing an accounting record of the transaction.

10 ~~69~~. (Amended) A method for obtaining an operational protocol for a medical diagnostic system or institution, the method comprising the steps of:

ordering a protocol by viewing a protocol list on a user interface at the medical diagnostic system or institution, and selecting a desired protocol from the list, wherein the protocol list includes an exemplary image obtainable via the protocol;

C2 performing a transaction by accessing data from a protocol library defining the desired protocol via a network link between the diagnostic system or institution and the library, and transmitting the data from the library to the diagnostic system; and

storing a record of the transaction.

15 ~~74~~. (Amended) A system for providing operational protocols to a medical diagnostic station or institution, the system comprising:

C3 at least one storage device for storing data defining a protocol, the protocol including data for controlling operation of the diagnostic station;

a messaging module in the diagnostic station or the institution for formulating messages containing data descriptive of a desired protocol, the descriptive data including an exemplary image obtainable via the protocol; and

C3 communications circuitry for establishing a network link between the diagnostic station or institution and a remote protocol provider, for transmitting data descriptive of the desired protocol, and for receiving a reply from the remote protocol provider.

C4 ¹⁸77. (Amended) ¹⁵~~74~~. The system of claim ~~74~~, wherein the messaging module is provided on a computer workstation networked to the medical diagnostic station within the institution.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 59-78 were rejected and the Examiner objected to claim 77 and the drawings/specification. By the present Response, claim 65 is cancelled and claims 59, 69, 74, and 77 are amended to more distinctly claim the subject matter recited in those claims. Furthermore, to overcome the objection to the drawings/specification, the specification has been amended. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 59-64 and 66-78 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings because of a certain informality on page 23, lines 5 and 6, which referred to a "service center telephone directory button 218" in reference to Figure 8. The Examiner has graciously pointed to the fact that Figure 8 contains no such reference number and that the reference numeral 218 is used elsewhere to indicate the "systems reports page" of Figure 9. Applicants have amended the specification to delete the use of reference numeral "218" on page 23, line 6 of the